



## **Honoring National Recovery Month Act**

***Reps. David Trone (D-MD) Denver Riggleman (R-VA)***

**National Recovery Month** is an annual observance honoring individuals in recovery from substance use disorders and mental illness. During this month, government agencies, community and advocacy groups, health care providers, treatment and recovery centers, first responders, and others partner with individuals in recovery and their families to celebrate progress, educate the public, and combat stigma. Historically, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has played an important role in sponsoring and promoting Recovery Month by developing targeted outreach materials, suggestions for event planning, and other resources, which are used by community organizations across the country.

This year, SAMHSA declined to lead Recovery Month, citing the loss of a dedicated funding stream for these efforts and their preference that community organizations lead Recovery Month activities, rather than the government.

### **Legislation**

The **Honoring National Recovery Month Act** would authorize \$1 million annually for SAMHSA to develop materials, distribute best practices, and lead activities related to Recovery Month. If SAMHSA declines to lead Recovery Month, they may enter into an agreement with a national organization to use those funds for Recovery Month activities.

### **Why This Bill is Necessary**

Maintaining federal support for Recovery Month is critical to show that celebrating those in recovery and educating the public about recovery from substance use disorders and mental illness is a government priority. While Recovery Month is an important celebration every year, this bill is especially needed given the increased challenges posed by COVID-19 to people in recovery. Since the pandemic set in, we've already seen increases in fatal overdoses<sup>1</sup> and self-reported substance use and suicidal ideation.<sup>2</sup> Now is not the time to stop supporting individuals in recovery.

### **Endorsement**

Faces & Voices of Recovery

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-09/issue-brief-increases-in-opioid-related-overdose.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6932a1.htm>